

REMARKS

This Request is submitted in response to the official action dated August 8, 2007. Claims 1-12 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-12 were rejected. Claims 1-12 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

\$102 Rejections

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. \$102(e) as being anticipated by Nakami (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2004/0141069 A1).

Applicants submit that the independent claims (claims 1 and 7) are patentable over Nakami.

Applicants' invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward an image pickup apparatus and a recording method. Each of the claims recites "storing [image data] together with an application program of one or more specified applications, so as to associate the image data with the applications." By associating image data with one or more application programs, the invention provides a user with more efficient access to application programs that the user desires to use with the image data. (See e.g., Specification page 22, lines 6-12.) For example, a user may store image data classified by "shooting situation" together with a "photo diary" application, in which case the image data and classification are automatically captured by the photo diary program when the program is executed. (See e.g., Specification page 16, line 3 - page 17, line 25.)

Nakami does not disclose storing image data together with an application program, and therefore can not realize the advantages of Applicants' invention.

The Examiner cites Nakami's sections [0073]-[0075] and Figs. 12-14 as disclosing "storing [image data] together with an application program of one or more specified applications, so as to associate the image data with the applications." (official action page 3, lines 7-10. However, careful examination of Nakami's sections [0073]-[0075] reveals that Nakami does not disclose storing image data with an application program, but rather, discloses subdividing a storage file into "application marker segments." (See e.g. Nakami section [0073], lines 1-8; and Fig. 3.) Such "application marker segments" are not application programs. That is, the segments merely denote portions of a file and do not include an executable set of instructions as would an application program. Furthermore, Applicants note that Nakami's Figs. 12-14 depict the steps taken in image quality adjustment processes and do not show any storage of image data with an application program.

Since Nakami does not disclose storing image data together with an application program, Applicants believe that claims 1 and 7 are patentable over Nakami on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicants believe that dependent claims 2-6 and 8-12 are patentable over Nakami for at least the same reasons as discussed in connection with claims 1 and 7.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Application No.: 10/526,944

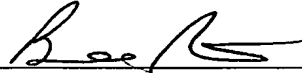
Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-1026

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Dated: December 17, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By



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